



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
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June 1, 2018

Dear Friend of Public Health,

The Department of Public Health and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Advisory Committee are seeking public comment for the priorities for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

For your information and use in thinking ahead, enclosed you will find a Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant summary, which includes federal fiscal year 2018 program priorities.

We have scheduled an open meeting on June 7, 2018 from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM in the Lobby 1 Conference Room, Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA, 02108. Written comments can also be made to:

Christine Eggleton – Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant Coordinator
Bureau of Community Health & Prevention
23 Service Center Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Email: christine.eggleton@state.ma.us

This hearing provides a forum for Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funded agencies as well as other public health professionals and consumers to share their thoughts with the Department concerning Program priorities. I encourage you to participate on June 7, 2018.

If you have any questions about the hearing, you may contact me at 617-624-5541 or by email (see above). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Eggleton
Block Grant Coordinator
Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant Program

Enclosure (1)

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant was established in 1981 as a flexible way for states to address priority health concerns focused on healthy people objectives and prevention initiatives. The grant has been a key mechanism utilized by Massachusetts to achieve the three Public Health Core Functions: Assessment, Policy, and Assurance. The Block Grant assures the infrastructure is in place both at the state and community level to address the ten Essential Public Health Services. These funds are the foundation upon which other services and initiatives are built. This funding, integrated with both state and other federal funding, assures that Massachusetts can continue to address the disparities which exist in health outcomes and maintain core public health activities such as assessment and sanitation.

The State used the following criteria to select projects from DPH Offices and Bureaus for allocation of funding in Federal FY2018:

- Healthy people 2020 objectives
- Compliance with Maintenance of Effort requirements
- Focus on primary and secondary prevention
- Consistent with State Health Plan (SHIP)
- Focus on building/maintaining public health infrastructure including
 - Data collection and analysis,
 - Training,
 - Building efficiencies and quality improvement, and
 - Addressing inequities across the Department.

Program goals are briefly outlined along with the estimated allocation of funding:

Sexual assault prevention – support and monitor funded programs' sexual assault prevention and survivor services by building their capacity to provide culturally competent services to all survivors, especially underserved and disparate populations - \$444,000.00

Mass in Motion – lower the risk of chronic disease by supporting equitable food access and active living opportunities in cities and towns in Massachusetts - \$698,426.77

Local public health capacity building – strengthen the local public health system and reduce service delivery inequities across communities through training, continuing education, and technical assistance - \$658,017.00

Healthy communities capacity building – Increase the capacity of individuals, organizations, and teams to build healthier communities and engage in broad based community health planning efforts across the Commonwealth with the ultimate goal of addressing health disparities and/or inequities.- \$520,424.00

Healthy Aging/Healthy Community Design – develop policy, systems, and environmental change approaches that improve opportunities for engaging in physical activity through active living,

increasing access to healthy food, and improving the social environment to create age-friendly communities - \$105,000.00

Health Equity - provide ongoing training and technical assistance to public health department staff and providers on health equity principles and tools, such as Racial Equity Reframing and CLAS Standards - \$148,550.00

Infrastructure investment in public health – improve public health infrastructure by continuing the Department’s goal of becoming an accredited health department; increasing the core competencies of the public health workforce; investing in MDPHNet, vital records, the trauma system, and other tools to improve data availability and online access; expansion of the Department’s Office of Population Health; and public health communications - \$1,419,646.25